



RS EXCHANGE

REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Weekly Report

October 23, 2019

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions \(RS\) Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **Oregon Connections: Innovations in Broadband Systems:** RS attended the 24th Annual Oregon Telecommunications Conference in Ashland. The event focused on innovation in planning smart cities and how to leverage public/private partnerships. There were several US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Federal data and technical assistance (TA) resources shared, which will be useful in building business cases for rural broadband investment.
 - Mid-Valley (MV) broadband champion, Don Patten was awarded the Edwin B. Parker Enduring Achievement Award. Don has been at the helm for six years of MINET, the City of Independence and City of Monmouth's municipally- owned telecommunications network, which recently expanded to the City of Dallas under Willamette Valley Fiber. The award recognizes "individuals whose contributions in telecommunications have been rendered with the greatest civility, who serve as a role model and mentor to many, and who have provided a lasting legacy influencing for years to come the course and future of telecommunications in Oregon." Congratulations to Don Patten, MINET, and Willamette Valley Fiber Network.
- **Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) TA Grant Mid-Valley Applications:** The MV RS Team members provided an inter-agency review on 10 TA grant applications. The statewide requests totaled approximately \$2.3 million, with approximately \$600,000 available. DLCD's review process should be completed by the end of November 2019.
- **Ash Creek Development:** This 14-acre commercial development in the City of Monmouth includes retail, a daycare, and medical services. The developer reached out to RS asking for help to facilitate the process, which included several in-person discussions and follow-up meetings.
 - RS received word that the Joint Permit Application (JPA) process has been completed with the US Corp of Army Engineers (USACE) issuing the final permit.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **MV RSAC:** Thursday, December 5th, 2019, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM; Location – TBD

South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **Lincoln City Outreach Meeting:** Thanks to the city staff at Lincoln City for hosting the South Valley/Mid Coast (SVMC) RS Team last week. The Team met with several staff members on topics

ranging from Wayside development, urban renewal, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations, and signage along Highway 101. There are a number of items the Team will follow up on in the coming weeks. One project in particular to note is the D River Wayside project. Currently, this wayside is owned and managed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). The City is currently working with OPRD to transfer jurisdiction of the wayside. Once the transfer takes place, the City plans to modernize the site with a visitor's center with restrooms, a plaza with a stage for signature events, and provide space for family festival opportunities. RS will be assisting not only with the short term needs related to the transfer of the facility, but also with the longer term vision creating this space into the City's "Front Yard." This work might also ignite a broader conversation around developing a template for cities and OPRD to use when presented similar opportunities in the future.

- **Benton County Commissioners Outreach:** The SVMC RS Team also met with the Benton County Commissioners in a work session earlier this week to discuss upcoming opportunities and projects to partner on. Of note, the Commissioners requested the Team be involved with water infrastructure work, the newly formed South Corvallis Urban Renewal District, the Corvallis/Albany multi-use path, and broadband development. Thanks to the Commissioners for their time and willingness to partner with SVMC Regional Solutions.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **SVMC RSAC:** Wednesday, December 18th, 2019, 2pm-4pm; Location – TBD

Southern & South Coast Regions – Alex Campbell

- **Oregon State University (OSU) & University of Oregon (UO) Mass Timber Investments:** Business Oregon and RS staff attended the public opening of the new Emerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon. The fabrication bay in the lab is fully equipped with industry-grade equipment, including advanced Cross Laminated Timber press, Computerized Numerical Control (CNC) tooling, robotic equipment, and precision molder. At the event UO and OSU announced two new programs: a collaborative master's degree program in mass timber design and a new certificate in mass timber manufacturing and construction. Peavey Hall, with its multiple mass timber components is on schedule for completion in 2020. OSU recently opened a new fire materials testing lab and UO announced the establishment of a new acoustic testing lab.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Southern RSAC:** November 8th, 2019; Time/Location – TBD

Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Vance Properties: *Background*** – A Multnomah County property located in the NW corner of Gresham on the Portland border and near the Rockwood Town Center, which is one of the state's most diverse areas, where nearly 70 different languages are spoken in the home. The total plan area is about 90 acres and includes Vance Park, Vance Pit and John B Yeon Facility sites. Roughly 72 acres are zoned industrial with the remaining 18 acres zoned transit/low density/residential. There is a legacy of historic landfill activities, and there are slope stabilization and stormwater treatment needs. Multnomah County would like to redevelop the area for county services, such as a potential animal services shelter, emergency command center, or flagship library branch for outer east county. The County is also interested in exploring other potential uses such as housing or employment in the area.
 - ***Update*** – Multnomah County leadership and project staff gave the entire Metro RS Team a tour of the site. Through Metro RS, the project received funds from Business Oregon's Brownfield TA program (thank you, Karen Homolac), and the Department of State Lands

(DSL) completed a Wetland Delineation study, which found there are no wetlands on site. Other potential funding sources for the project may include Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) orphan funds for further investigation of contaminants on site. Metro RS will follow-up with information on orphan funds and our toolkit of resources and information about other types of TA that we may be able to provide. Metro RS will continue to work with Multnomah County and their consultant team, Cascadia Partners, to inform the master planning process.

- **DLCD TA Grant Applications:** The entire Metro RS Team reviewed the 10 (47 total statewide) TA grant applications that DLCD received for the Metro region, and provided input including on what other funding sources may be available or are already committed to grant applicants.

North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **Dog River Pipeline:** The Team continues to work with City of The Dalles on a project to replace an over 100 year-old pipeline that serves as the City's main source of drinking water. The pipeline was constructed in the early 20th century and consists of milled pieces of fir that were assembled in a circular shape and wrapped with heavy-gauge galvanized wire and coated with tar. Over the past 100 years, this pipe has deteriorated, is leaking from tree damage and exhibiting corrosion. The City's project to replace the pipeline started over a decade ago as with the adjustment of rate structures to prepare for the project. On the funding side, the City started the funding process with Business Oregon in 2016 and received a \$1 million grant from Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) for the project in early 2019. The City continues to work through a US Forest Service (USFS) Environmental Assessment.
 - *Update* – This week members of the Team met with the City to discuss progress on the USFS Environmental Assessment, confirm funding, and discuss next steps on the regulatory front. Given the importance of this project and timing around funding sources, the Team plans to assist the City through the remaining state and federal permitting processing, hopefully taking advantage of the Kaizen process, which can be [found here](#).

Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Bend Venture Conference:** RS attended pitch sessions for social impact, early and growth stage companies. Great to see so much innovation. RS is working on a follow up ideas with Adam Krynicki at the OSU Cascades co-lab to assess opportunities for innovation in the childcare space.
- **RS Teams review of DLCD Grant Applications:** Central and South Central Teams reviewed the TA grant applications for their regions and provided input related to the scope of work's (SOW) contribution to addressing priorities and ongoing projects. Many thanks to Scott Edelman at DLCD for organizing these discussions
- **Deschutes Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) Coordination:** The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), DEQ, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and OWRD met to discuss their initial review of the Draft HCP and accompanying Draft EIS. Coordination, especially on the water quality related issues, is critical, as is identifying actions that can best address agency concerns. The group will meet again in a couple of weeks; the comment deadline is Monday, November 18th, 2019.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Central:** Thursday, December 5th, 9:00 AM – Noon; Location TBD

South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Red Rock:** The RS Team met with the Town of Lakeview and Red Rock consultants to review data needs and water quality permitting related to the company's plans to reuse water from the Town's wastewater treatment plant for cooling at the Red Rock facility.

Upcoming Scheduled Regional Solutions Advisory Committee Meeting

- **South Central:** Wednesday, October 30th, 10:00 AM – Noon; Location – Klamath Community College, Klamath Falls, Oregon

Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Umatilla Basin Water Projects:** Background – This project comes from the efforts to take water from the main stem of the Columbia River for irrigation purposes in the Umatilla Basin. The Basin was granted funding from the legislature in 2015 and could take up to 180 cubic feet per second (CFS) from the Columbia River, but only if it is mitigated bucket for bucket. RS has been working with the Northeast Oregon Water Association (NOWA) and OWRD to get these projects up and running. The piping projects are being constructed now, but they still need to finalize the mitigation efforts. OWRD and NOWA have been working over the past few months to try and come up with an innovative mitigation plan by working with the State of Washington to use their Washington Water Trust as mitigation.
 - Update – RS participated in a meeting with Tom Byler and Mike Ladd from OWRD and NOWA members to get more information on the Washington Water Trust program. It was a great opportunity to learn more and we are much closer to finalizing the temporary mitigation for these projects.
- **Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA):** RS attended the LUBGWMA committee meeting and heard a presentation from the US Geological Survey (USGS) on a groundwater watershed study that could be completed on the Umatilla Basin. This study could help identify where water flows underground, and where and how nitrates flow through the groundwater. This study, which would take approximately six years, would help us better understand how the aquifers work and help us figure out solutions to addressing the nitrate problems in the groundwater. The LUBGWMA committee is potentially interested in this study, but also feels like there is already a lot of research on this basin and there is a need to both bring all the research together that is already out there and bring together the various agencies that are involved (the DEQ, the ODA, and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA)). The ODA had a request to the legislature to fund a facilitator for this work, but it was not successful; so the committee is looking for additional resources to do this work. The water quality and quantity situations in this basin are closely linked and crucial to the future for both municipal, industrial and agricultural water in this region.